GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006
LOSS TO TOURISM INDUSTRY DUE TO NATURAL CALAMITIES
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism industry suffered due to floods and natural calamities;

(b) if so, the total damage caused to the tourism industry during each of the last three years;

(c) the Central assistance provided to the States for the purpose during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the foreign as well as domestic tourism in the respective States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.264 ANSWERED ON 09.03.2006 REGARDING LOSS TO TOURISM INDUSTRY DUE TO NATURAL CALAMITIES

(a) & (b): Although, overall the foreign tourist arrival did not suffer significantly on account of Tsunami which hit the Andaman, Nicobar, Lacchadives groups of islands, and southern coast of India the tourism industry was affected in these parts in a localized manner. Similarly other natural calamities like flood, excessive snowfall and earthquake do have temporary effect on both domestic and foreign tourist traffic.

Government of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory Administration of Andaman & Nicobar islands reported damages to tourism properties due to Tsunami of December 2004.

(c): During 2004-05 Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project for restoration of Tamil Nadu tourism facilities damaged due to Tsunami for an amount of Rs.499.50 lakh.

(d): Promotion of tourism in the overseas markets is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism promotes the places of tourist interests/spots through its 20 Indiatourism offices located in India and 13 overseas, as also in the electronic, print and online media through the "Incredible India" campaign. During the last three years, a significant increase of foreign tourist arrival has been registered as under:

Sl No.	Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals (in Million)	Percentage increase	Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. in Crore)	Percentage increase	Foreign Exchange Earnings (in bill-ion USD)	Percentage increase
1.	2003	2.73		16429		3.5	
2.	2004	3.37	26.8% increase	21603	31.5% increase	4.8	35% increase
3.	2005	3.92	13.2% Increase	25172	16.5% increase	5.7	20% increase

As regards domestic tourist numbers, there were 309.00 million tourists during 2003, and the figures were 367.6 million tourists during 2004 recording 19% increase. Special domestic publicity campaigns have been launched during 2005-06, besides giving assistance to the State Governments to improve tourism infrastructure and other tourism products in their States.